CLAIMS

Now, therefore, the following is claimed:

1   1.   A system for tracking vehicles, comprising:

2   means for receiving data identifying a particular location from a user interface

3   device;

4   means for automatically translating said received data received into a set of

5   location values;

6   means for storing said set of location values;

7   means for monitoring travel data associated with a vehicle based upon location

8   values produced by a location sensor coupled to said vehicle;

9   means for comparing said set of said location values produced by said location

10   sensor to said set of stored location values;

11   means for determining when said vehicle is within a predefined proximity of said

12   particular location; and

13   means for causing a notification communication to be transmitted to a user

14   communications device in response to a determination that said vehicle is within said

15   predefined proximity of said particular location.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising means for displaying, via said

2   user interface, a map including symbols representing various locations, said particular

3   location associated with one of the symbols.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, further comprising means for transmitting data

2   defining said map across the Internet to said user interface.

1   4.   The system of claim 2, further comprising:

2   means for selecting said symbol associated with said particular location; and

3   means for transmitting said data identifying said particular location.

1   5.   A system for tracking vehicles, comprising:

2   means for receiving data identifying a plurality of locations;

3   means for automatically defining a plurality of routes based on said data

4 identifying a plurality of locations;

5   means for associating each of said plurality of locations with one of said routes;

6   means for automatically translating said data identifying said plurality of locations

7 into location values;

8   means for storing a set of said location values, said set of location values

9 identifying a particular location;

10   means for monitoring travel of a vehicle based on location values produced by a

11 location sensor coupled to said vehicle;

12   means for comparing said set of said location values produced by said location

13 sensor to said set of stored location values;

14   means for determining when said vehicle is within a predefined proximity of said

15 particular location; and

16   means for causing a notification message to be transmitted to a user

17 communications device in response to a determination in said determining step that said

18 vehicle is within said predefined proximity of said particular location.

1   6.   The system of claim 5, further comprising:

2   means for displaying a map including at least one symbol, said one symbol

3 representing said location; and

4   means for enabling a user to select said one symbol,

5   wherein said received data includes data transmitted in response to a user

6 selection of said one symbol.

1   7.   A method for a notification computer system, comprising the steps of:

2   displaying a map to a party;

3   enabling the party to identify one or more locations or one or more regions on the

4   map;

5   monitoring travel data associated with travel status of a mobile vehicle; and

6   causing a notification communication to a party communications device that is

7   remote from the notification computer system based upon the travel status in relation to

8   the identified locations or regions.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing the map

2   to the party over the Internet.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of commencing the

2   causing step when the vehicle has reached or is in a predefined proximity of the identified

3   one or more locations or one or more regions.

1   10.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of disposing the

2   notification computer system on the mobile vehicle.

1   11.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of disposing the

2   notification computer system at a location that is remote from the mobile vehicle and the

3   party communications device.

1   12.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing another

2   map to the party communications device during the notification communication and

3   indicating on the map a location of the mobile vehicle.

1   13.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of enabling the party to

2   enter a location where a delivery or pickup is to take place.

1   14.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of generating the travel

2   data based upon checkpoint locations to be traversed by the mobile vehicle.

1   15.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing a message

2   during the notification communication, the message indicative of the travel status of the

3   mobile vehicle.

1   16.   The notification computer system that implements the steps of claim 7.

1   17.   The method of claim 9, wherein the predefined proximity is based upon a

2   location, distance, or time.